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LETTER DATED 26 JANUARY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I.
OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit, enclosed herewith, the letter of His Excellency Mr. Radoje Kontic, Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, addressed to you.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex

Letter dated 26 January 1993 from the Vice-President of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia addressed to the President of the Security Council

By its decisions and its resolutions 752 (1992) and 757 (1992), the Security Council has imposed obligations and sanctions on the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, pursuant to Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, which have subsequently been tightened under resolution 787 (1992).

Notwithstanding the unilateral and unfair nature of the imposed sanctions, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has actively participated in the efforts to meet fully all requirements laid down under the said Security Council resolutions:

- It is actively involved in the negotiating process within the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia and has been resolutely pressing for an absolute cease-fire in Bosnia and Herzegovina and an overall settlement based on an agreement between the three constituent nations;

- All Yugoslav Army units had withdrawn from the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina by 21 May 1992, while the border between the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina was placed under direct control in order to prevent any military interference and movement of possible paramilitary formations;

- The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia accepted in the talks held at Geneva on 2 and 3 January 1993 the constitutional principles for Bosnia and Herzegovina and resolutely urged their acceptance also by the delegation of Bosnian Serbs, as well as by the Assembly of the Serbian Republic. This has significantly enhanced the chances for the cessation of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the further settlement of the crisis in Bosnia and Herzegovina by peaceful means.

The Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia had through certain concrete measures already paved the way for such a development:

- It declared that it was resolutely opposed to the use of force as a means of changing borders between countries;

- It stated clearly that it had no territorial claims on its neighbours;

- It expressed its readiness to engage in direct talks with the republics of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia with a view to resolving all outstanding issues and regulating mutual relations, including mutual recognition (it recognized Slovenia);

- It condemned categorically the practice of "ethnic cleansing" in any form and by any party;

- It established the Ministry of Human Rights and is actively cooperating with efforts to protect and promote human rights in its own territory and in the broader territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia;

- It has initiated talks and contacts conducive to resolving the situation and problems related to Kosovo and Metohija and accepted the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe mission of long duration;

- It made a special effort to ensure the delivery of humanitarian aid and with that aim in mind urged that the shelling of Sarajevo be discontinued and the Sarajevo Airport be reopened and offered the services of Belgrade Airport free of charge;

- It opted for broad-based cooperation with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) and set up a State Committee for the purpose;

- It organized early and democratic parliamentary elections at republican and federal levels ensuring the extensive presence of foreign observers, etc.

All the above-mentioned activities undertaken by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to date have been seriously hampered by the persistent involvement of the Republic of Croatia in armed clashes in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the zones currently controlled by UNPROFOR, a fact we have repeatedly drawn attention to.

The sanctions have adversely affected all sections of the population and particularly the 600,000 refugees from the war-torn areas of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia which have not received even the minimum of relief aid from the world community. The disastrous implications of the sanctions on the living standards and the health status of our citizens as well as their devastating impact in the sphere of science, culture, sports, air traffic and other areas have been brought to the attention of the Security Council on a number of occasions by the top-ranking officials of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. To put it briefly, as a direct consequence of economic sanctions, a major part of the population is already living below subsistence level and the overall living conditions have become unbearable.

We cannot find any reasonable explanation to account for the way in which the Security Council has ignored the numerous appeals of the Yugoslav Government for the alleviation of the sanctions in the area of humanitarian needs.

As the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has fulfilled almost all the requirements which are within its competences and its powers, and bearing in mind the progress made so far within the Geneva process towards the earliest possible cessation of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and ending the grave drama in this area, we feel we have every right to ask you, Mr. President, to initiate, within the Security Council, the procedure for the lifting of the sanctions against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. To that end, we are at your disposal and we offer you our full collaboration.

Confident that you personally as well as the Security Council will devote due attention to this request, we should like to reassure you that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will remain consistent in its commitment and efforts to reach, through political negotiations, a lasting and just settlement of all the problems in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

Radoje KONTIC
Vice-President